

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute.

Today our congregation will decide whether or not to join other UU
Congregations in committing to dismantle racism, beginning within our walls.

Shall we adopt as our 8th principle “journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions”? That is the question that will be put before us later today.

This question is one of immediacy. “Justice delayed is justice denied” is a legal construct that is foundational in our legal system. Many people know that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. referenced it in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail”, but it’s a bit older. How much older? It appears in Exodus 18:22, making it more than 2600 years old. The idea is that if there is a way to provide an equitable response and it does not occur in a timely manner, then it is as if no response is provided even if one is offered at a later date.

We, as a country, as a religion, as a community, as individuals, stand in the court of public opinion. Let us act today and begin this journey as a congregation.

If we add the 8th principle to the existing 7, we need to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions. Together we will continue to educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist.